

EPI Update for Friday, September 10, 2010
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Surveillance begins for viral respiratory pathogens**
- **Advancements in environmental health tracking**
- **Influenza annual report for 2009-2010 now available**
- **Provisional recommendations for Group B *Streptococcus***
- **Deputy state epidemiologist announcement**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Surveillance begins for viral respiratory pathogen

As part of the Influenza Incidence Surveillance Project, supported by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, surveillance for nine respiratory pathogens began in late August. IDPH and the State Hygienic Laboratory are coordinating the effort to test and collect clinical information on a sampling of patients seen in an outpatient setting. Five medical clinics throughout the state are conducting surveillance in their patient populations including:

- Genesis Health Group, Davenport Pediatrics
- Mercy Panora Medical Clinic, Panora
- Akron Mercy Medical Clinic, Akron
- Northeast Iowa Family Practice, Waterloo
- Thielen Student Health Clinic, Ames

All specimens are being tested for the following viral respiratory pathogens: influenza A and B, adenovirus, parainfluenza 1-3, rhinovirus, RSV, and human metapneumovirus. Information on the incidence and geographic location of the viruses detected will be published in the Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network weekly report

www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports

Next week's Friday Update will feature an article describing the clinical and epidemiologic features of these viruses.

Advancements in environmental health tracking

IDPH has received a four year grant from the CDC to develop an Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. The grant will help IDPH link with other state and local agencies to build capacity in the area of environmental health surveillance; develop a comprehensive environmental health data management system that will link data on environmental hazards, exposures, and health outcomes; and provide information to partner agencies and communities to guide public health intervention and prevention policy efforts. The first two years of the grant will focus on planning and development, with implementation to follow in the second half of the grant period.

When complete, Iowa's Web Portal will link Iowa to the Web-based National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network maintained by the CDC. The CDC network uses data from national, state and city sources to track and report environmental hazards and the health problems possibly related to them. Iowa joins 22 other states in the network. The National CDC tracking portal can be found at www.cdc.gov/ephtracking.

For more information, please visit the IDPH Bureau of Environmental Health Services website at www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/epht.asp.

Influenza annual report for 2009-2010 now available

Each year, data collected through the Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network (IISN) is summarized in a final report. The report for 2009-2010 including pandemic influenza data is now available. The report features an executive summary, modeling graphs, trend data, and even a graph displaying the influence of temperature patterns on influenza activity. To view the entire report visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/flu/reports_final_2010.pdf.

Provisional recommendations for Group B *Streptococcus* prevention and control

Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS) has been the leading infectious cause of early neonatal morbidity and mortality in the United States since the early 1970s. However, the incidence of early-onset neonatal GBS disease has declined approximately 80 percent since the early 1990s. This drastic decrease is largely due to the Guidelines for Prevention of Perinatal Group B Streptococcal Disease initially issued by the CDC in 1996 and revised in 2002. Unfortunately, GBS remains a major burden of disease in neonates. New data has prompted another revision to the Guidelines for Prevention of Perinatal Group B Streptococcal Disease. Provisional recommendations have been posted on the CDC website. Once finalized, the new guidelines will be published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), tentatively scheduled for November, 2010.

The provisional revisions include:

- New algorithms for the management of women with onset of labor or rupture of membranes <37 weeks
- Updated procedures and methods for collection and processing of GBS specimens
- A new algorithm of recommendations for intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis agents and dosages
- A new algorithm for detecting early-onset GBS cases in newborns

For a complete list of the provisional recommendations, please visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/groupbstrep/guidelines/provisional-recs.htm.

Deputy state epidemiologist announcement

Mary Jones, Deputy Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health and Division Director of the Acute Disease Prevention and Emergency Response

Division, is pleased to announce that Dr. Ann Garvey has officially been named the Deputy State Epidemiologist for IDPH, in addition to the State Public Health Veterinarian. Since joining the department in 2007, Dr. Garvey has been involved in many outbreak and case investigations, as well as the department's response to severe weather in 2008 and the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

The Influenza Teleconference Series is back this year with two offerings on Thursday, October 7th. Sponsored by IDPH and SHL, the teleconferences will address many issues surrounding influenza including testing, surveillance, and anticipated trends.

The first teleconference will be held from 12-1 p.m. and will be focused for health care providers and laboratorians.

The second teleconference will be held from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and will be for schools, child care providers, and coordinators of mass gatherings.

All persons wishing to attend MUST register at

www.uhl.uiowa.edu/educationoutreach/conferencesevents/influenza/

We wish everyone a healthy week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

800-362-2736